

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-25 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3-5, and 8-11 have been amended, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 12-25 have been added. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 2-9 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and upon correction of informalities. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 (now cancelled) and claims 3-9 have been amended into independent form. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-9 are allowable.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2. New independent claims 12-14 and 17-18, corresponding to claim 10 in combination with the allowable subject matter of claims 3-5 and 8-9, respectively, have also been added. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 10 and 12-18 are allowable.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2. New independent claims 19-21 and 24-25, corresponding to claim 11 in combination with the allowable

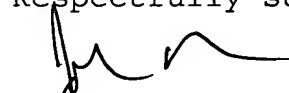
subject matter of claims 3-5 and 8-9, respectively, have also been added. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 11 and 19-25 are allowable.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kober et al. (US 6,430,216) in view of Forsythe et al. (US 6,745,050). This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claims 1, 10, and 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-25 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 12/15/05

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